

Opening Prayer
National White House Aging Conference
Done In Tewa & Translated
December 14, 2005

With all due respect. I am Sokuwa Owing Taa
I greet you this morning; I come before you with honor and respect
I have been asked by this honorable delegation to give an opening prayer
Today is a day to honor our elders, but as well to honor all people
In the midst of all that transpires today and things that have transpired in the past
We continue to strive for the well being of all people
Today especially and this past week we have sought to find ways to make things better
for our aging through out our country
So important it is to understand that there are many ailments that don't have to be
We continue to struggle to make things better for all our people, the elders, ourselves, the
young ones and even the unborn ones
We can provide much more to meet the needs of our people
But we must work together
Our elders have always told us, if you work together; put your minds, spirit, and energy
for the betterment of those in need
It will then be easier to accomplish
We have all these resources that we should work with
We continue to work separately, and that is not the way
We should take the messages given to us
You will see that the true heartfelt efforts will be heeded and supported
Remember that things that are hard to accomplish don't just happen because we wish
them to be
We must work ever so diligently, patiently and with perseverance
To ensure that our efforts are successful
We ask the Great Spirit to help us, to be with us as we move toward a better future for all
of us, the young ones and especially for the aging
We ask that those who are the decision makers be provided the blessing and the guidance
to make the appropriate decisions on our behalf
We also ask that all of you have safe trips back home and spread the blessings with your
family, friends, and community
Be happy, be strong, be blessed, and be respectful to all
This is what the creator has placed in my brain to relay to you
It is not normal to put these thoughts in English please forgive me for doing so
I respectfully remain, Sokuwa Owing Taa, Mark of the Misty Lake
Thank you